

A note on the historical context: as the committee was in the final stages of preparing the 2020 Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month Booklist, the first time a full booklist was planned by the Boston Public Library to commemorate Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, the entire library system shut down due to the COVID-19 epidemic. The list was never printed. However, the content of the booklist had already been finalized and is presented below.

Boston Public Library

Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month

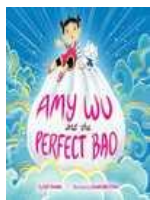
Booklist | 2020

The Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month booklist is a list of recent books concerning the Asian American and Pacific Islander experience. It is published as part of the Boston Public Library's observance of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month every year.

This list was compiled by Boston Public Library staff:

Liz Blake, Programs & Community Outreach Librarian at the Fields Corner Branch Library
Mary Devine, Workforce Development Librarian at the Kirstein Business Library & Innovation Center
Chris Glass, Research Services Librarian at the Central Library
Charlie Gluck, Youth Services Librarian at the Chinatown Branch
Veronica Koven-Matasy (chair), Reader Services Specialist at the Central Library

Picture Books

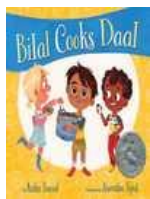


Amy Wu and the Perfect Bao

Kat Zhang (ill. Charlene Chua)

This whimsical picture book follows Amy Wu's quest to create the perfect bao, a bread-like dumpling that is one of her family's favorite treats. This book is great for early readers and includes a full recipe for Amy's Bao in the back.

J PICTURE ZHANG K



Bilal Cooks Daal

Aisha Saeed

In this charming story, a young boy shares one of his family's cultural traditions for the first time. Showcasing the colors and flavors of the daal's ingredients, Bilal sees his friends embrace cooking and eating his favorite meal!

J PICTURE SAAED A



Camp Tiger

Susan Choi (ill. John Rocco)

The story of a young boy who meets a tiger on his family's camping trip. The gorgeous watercolor illustrations capture the dream-like narrative perfectly.

J PICTURE CHOI S

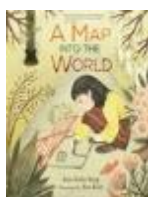


The Many Colors of Harpreet Singh

Supriya Kelkar (ill. Alea Marley)

The resonant and vibrant story of a young Sikh boy overcoming the cultural differences he initially faces after moving with his family.

J PICTURE KELKAR S



A Map into the World

Kao Kalia Yang (ill. Seo Kim)

Beautifully written and illustrated, this book compassionately reflects on the cycle of life and death through the eyes of a young girl. Paj Ntaub learns the joy of new life when her brothers are born and the grief that comes at its ending when a beloved neighbor passes away.

J PICTURE YANG K



Our Favorite Day

Joowon Oh

A colorful, peaceful glimpse into the life of a grandfather planning for his granddaughter's weekly visit.

J PICTURE OH J



Paper Son: The Inspiring Story of Tyrus Wong, Immigrant and Artist

Julie Leung (ill. Chris Sasaki)

This biographical picture book celebrates the life of Tyrus Wong, who spends his days creating watercolor landscapes and Asian-inspired artwork for businesses like Disney and for personal enjoyment through kites and ceramics.

J BIOG N6537.W647 L48 2019



Piece by Piece

Susan Tan

Emmy's grandma Nainai is her closest companion until she heads home to China, leaving Emmy a handsewn patchwork quilt with all their memories. When Emmy loses the quilt in a museum she and her father search each room, exploring the moments that Emmy and Nainai spent together.

J PICTURE TAN S



Queen of Physics: How Wu Chien Shiung Helped Unlock the Secrets of the Atom

Teresa Robeson (ill. Rebecca Huang)

Follow the journey of Wu Chien Shiung from a young girl to a celebrated physicist! This biographical picture book marks her accomplishments and perseverance in spite of the obstacles she faced.

J BIOG QC16.W785 R63 2019

Chapter Books



The Best at It

Maulik Pancholy

Rahul Kapoor has a dilemma: figuring out who he is and what sets him apart, what he can be the best at, to reassure himself and counter the bullies he faces. A layered character with an authentic voice.

J FICTION PANCHOLY M

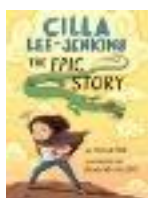


The Bridge Home

Padma Venkatraman

Two sisters face a harrowing journey in the city as they experience homelessness, struggle to meet their needs, and find a new family in an unfamiliar place.

J FICTION VENKATRA P



Cilla Lee-Jenkins: The Epic Story

Susan Tan

In the third book of her series, Cilla Lee-Jenkins is out to conquer her next genre: epic stories! An epic story focuses on the struggles of its protagonist and Cilla is no exception; her own struggles with family, friends, and classmates inspire and shape the story that Cilla writes.

J FICTION TAN S



Dragon Pearl

Yoon Ha Lee

The Korean myth of the gumiho, a shape-shifting fox spirit, makes its way into outer space in this fast-paced adventure. When Min's beloved older brother is accused of treason, she must travel the galaxy with only her wits (and her magical powers) to clear his name.

J SCIFI FANTASY LEE Y



The Dragon Warrior

Katie Zhao

Searching for a great heroine? Look no further than twelve-year-old Faryn Liu, who travels across various Chinatowns to battle with demons and become a fabled warrior in this action-packed adventure.

J SCIFI FANTASY ZHAO K



Lalani of the Distant Sea

Erin Entrada Kelly

Inspired by Filipino folktales, this vivid chapter book follows the hero's journey of a young girl on a quest to save her village in spite of the fantastical beauty and danger before her.

J SCIFI FANTASY KELLY E

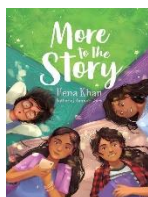


Midsummer's Mayhem

Rajani Larocca

An enchanting twist on *A Midsummer Night's Dream* filled with rich, complex characters, humor and magic, and irresistible descriptions of the main character's culinary creations. A must read for young bakers and those looking for the extraordinary in the everyday.

J FICTION LAROCCA R



More to the Story

Hena Khan

In this modern-day update of *Little Women*, Jameela, an ambitious aspiring journalist, must learn to balance the important people in her life—her sisters, her parents, and her friends—with her desire to achieve her dreams.

J FICTION KHAN H



A Place to Belong

Cynthia Kadohata

Hanako, a 12 year old girl who has already survived the Japanese internment camps during World War II, expatriates with her family back to a wartorn Japan. An incredible story of the impact of racism, nuclear war, and cultural dislocation felt by a child who is finding her way in the world.

J FICTION KADOHATA C



Stargazing

Jen Wang

Christine has never met anyone like Moon Lin in her tight-knit Chinese/Taiwanese church or at school: Moon has a single mother, is Buddhist and vegetarian and obsessed with K-Pop, doesn't speak Chinese, and doesn't seem to care what anybody thinks about her. Their burgeoning friendship will change both their lives.

J GRAPHIC STARGAZI



The Twelve

Cindy Lin

In a fantasy world based on the Chinese zodiac, protagonist Usagi becomes a trained warrior with powers determined by her zodiac year. Usagi makes new friends and enemies on the way to save her sister in an action-packed climax that will leave readers eager for the second book.

J SCIFI FANTASY LIN C

Teen



Butterfly Yellow

Thanhha Lai

Separated from her baby brother during Operation Babylift at the end of the Vietnam War, Hằng has spent years planning to find him again. But making her way from Viet Nam to America is only the beginning of her quest to reunite the remnants of her family.

TEEN FICTION LAI T

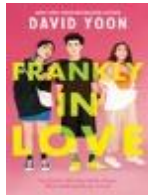


The Downstairs Girl

Stacey Lee

Lady's maid Jo Kuan has a secret: she's the author behind popular advice column "Dear Miss Sweetie". When she tries to bring more serious issues to her audience's attention, she isn't prepared for the backlash her words provoke.

TEEN FICTION LEE S



Frankly in Love

David Yoon

After his parents disowned his older sister for marrying a black man, Frank isn't eager to tell them that his new girlfriend is white. Enter his friend Joy Song, a "nice Korean girl" who's happy to pretend to date Frank to get her own parents off her back.

TEEN FICTION YOON D



I Love You So Mochi

Sarah Kuhn

An invitation to visit her estranged grandparents in Kyoto is just the escape Kimi needs from her mother's pressure to focus on her fine art portfolio rather than her interest in fashion. Will exploring the country her mother left behind—and the company of a cute med student named Akira—help Kimi figure out her own future?

TEEN FICTION KUHN S

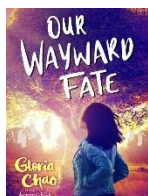


A Match Made in Mehendi

Nandini Bajpai

Match-making is Simi's family business, but when she turns the traditional artform into an app, she unleashes social chaos at her school.

TEEN FICTION BAJPAI N



Our Wayward Fate

Gloria Chao

As the only Asian in her small midwestern town, Ali has never wanted to stick out or make waves. Will the arrival of Chase Yu, a fellow Taiwanese student, help her stand up for what she believes?

TEEN FICTION CHAO G



Patron Saints of Nothing

Randy Ribay

When Jay learns that his cousin Jun has been murdered, he's determined to find out what happened—but no one in his family is talking. His return to the Philippines uncovers secrets not only about Jun, but also about Jay himself.

TEEN FICTION RIBAY R

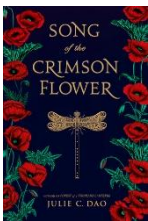


Somewhere Only We Know

Maurene Goo

A teenage popstar and a wannabe paparazzo find themselves unexpectedly falling in love during a whirlwind weekend tour of Hong Kong in this modern K-Pop update of *Roman Holiday*.

TEEN FICTION GOO M



Song of the Crimson Flower

Julie C. Dao

In this lush fairytale-esque fantasy, a nobleman's daughter must embark on a quest to redeem the soul of the poor lover she has wronged.

TEEN SCIFI FANTASY DAO J

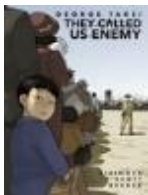


There's Something About Sweetie

Sandhya Menon

In a moment of weakness after getting dumped, Ashish agrees to let his parents set him up on a date. Sweetie, a confident track star who also happens to be fat, isn't who he expected, but as they get to know one another, they realize Ashish's family might have been right all along.

TEEN FICTION MENON S



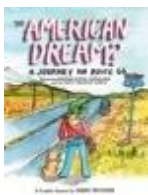
They Called Us Enemy

George Takei

Takei recounts his experiences as a child during the forced relocation of Japanese Americans to internment camps. His graphic memoir connects the legalized racism of the internment camps to the treatment of immigrants today.

TEEN GRAPHIC THEY CALLED US

Memoir

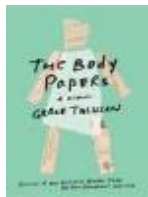


The American Dream? A Journey on Route 66: Discovering Dinosaur Statues, Muffler Men, and the Perfect Breakfast Burrito

Shing Yin Khor

This thoughtful road trip graphic memoir by sculptor and cartoonist Khor reflects on America through the lens of Route 66.

Available as an eBook on Hoopla



The Body Papers

Grace Talusan

Winner of the Restless Books Prize for New Immigrant Writing, Talusan's memoir bravely explores her experiences with sexual abuse, depression, cancer, and life as a Filipino immigrant.

BIOG RC560.S44 T35 2019x



Dear Girls: Intimate Tales, Untold Secrets, and Advice for Living Your Best Life

Ali Wong

Ali Wong's heartfelt and hilarious letters to her daughters (the two she put to work while they were still in utero) cover everything she hopes they need to know in life.

PN2287.W555 A3 2019

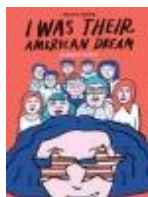


Here We Are: American Dreams, American Nightmares

Aarti Namdev Shahani

This heart-wrenching memoir, from NPR correspondent Shahani, brings to life one immigrant family's American Dream, the justice system that took it away, and the daughter who fought to get it back.

BIOG E184.E2 S535 2019x

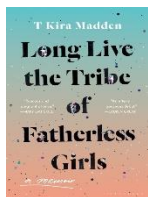


I Was Their American Dream

Malaka Gharib

Gharib's graphic memoir of growing up surrounded by her Filipino and Egyptian family is a triumphant tale of self-discovery, a celebration of her family's rich heritage, and a love letter to American immigrant freedom.

GRAPHIC JV6201 .G43 2019x



Long Live the Tribe of Fatherless Girls

T Kira Madden

Acclaimed literary essayist Madden recounts her coming of age and reckoning with desire as a queer, biracial teenager amidst the fierce contradictions of Boca Raton, Florida.

BIOG PS3613.A28357 Z46 2019

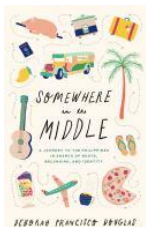


Naturally Tan

Tan France

In this hilarious and touching memoir, *Queer Eye* fashion expert Tan France opens up about his life and struggles growing up in a traditional, religious South Asian family in Yorkshire. Tan's journey inspires every reader to find the joy in being fabulously themselves.

BIOG PN2287.F655 A3 2019



Somewhere in the Middle: A Journey to the Philippines in Search of Roots, Belonging, and Identity

Deborah Francisco Douglas

Raised in an American household, Francisco Douglas had always longed to know more about her Filipino heritage. Her warm and funny memoir of her time working for the Peace Corp in the Philippines captures the simple joy found in ordinary moments and in the people we share our lives with.

BIOG DS660 .F73 2019x



Stealing Green Mangoes: Two Brothers, Two Fates, One Indian Childhood

Sunil Datta

After being diagnosed with Stage IV lung cancer later in life, Datta urgently wanted to understand what choices had led him and his brother down such radically different paths: one to become an LAPD officer, the other a terrorist.

BIOG E184.E2 D88 2019x



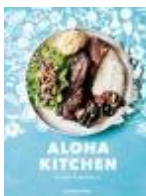
Your Heart, My Hands: An Immigrant's Remarkable Journey to Become One of America's Preeminent Cardiac Surgeons

Arun K. Singh

The encouraging and inspiring true story of how a boy from India overcame a difficult childhood and devastating hand injuries to become one of the preeminent cardiac surgeons in U.S. history.

Available as an eBook on Overdrive

Expressions



Aloha Kitchen: Recipes from Hawai'i

Alana Kysar

Hawaii native and popular food blogger Alana Kysar highlights the major influences on Hawaiian food and culture in this stunning cookbook featuring 85 colorful recipes, in all of which the most important ingredient is the aloha spirit.

TX724.5.H3 K97 2019

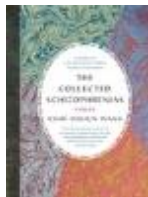


Bodega

Su Hwang

A rich collection of lyrical and narrative poems in which the bodega is so much more than a corner store. It is a community gathering space, an intersection of humanity, and a symbol of the collective suffering immigrants who live in pursuit of the American dream.

PS3608.W93 A6 2019



The Collected Schizophrenias

Esme Weijun Wang

In this brilliant essay collection, Wang chronicles her journey towards a diagnosis of schizoaffective disorder. Her story offers clarity for those who aren't suffering and allows those who are to feel less alone.

RC514.W236 A3 2019x



Hybrida

Tina Chang

Using hybrid poetic forms, Chang writes about the heart-breaking complexities of raising a mixed-race child in our country in a post-Michael Brown, post-Leiby Kletzky world as only a mother can do.

PS3603.H3574 A6 2019

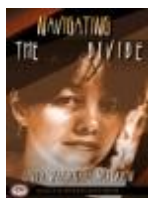


Loves You

Sarah Gambito

This collection explores the recipe as poetic form as Gambito considers the Filipino American experience through favorite family recipes and poems that demonstrate how food and history are forever entwined.

PS3607.A433 A6 2019



Navigating the Divide

Linda Watanabe McFerrin

This abundant, career-spanning collection of poetry and prose from Linda Watanabe McFerrin navigates the divide, breaks down walls, builds bridges, and explores relationships both within and without.

PS3573.A7987 N38 2019x

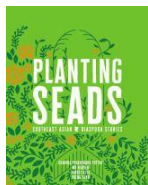


The Peached Tortilla: Modern Asian Comfort Food from Tokyo to Texas

Eric Silverstein

Silverstein's background, having been born in Tokyo and raised in Atlanta, is represented in these 100 flavor-packed recipes which are the perfect blend of Asian street food and rich southern comfort.

TX724.5.A1 S52 2019x



Planting SEADS: Southeast Asian Diaspora Stories

Chanida Phaengdara Potter (ed.)

Minnesota's first Southeast Asian collection of stories, poetry, and artwork aims to reclaim and honor the experience of the many unique and otherwise invisible narratives of the Hmong, Khmer, Lao, and Viet community. These are stories about them, for them, and by them.

F615.S695 P68 2019x



Soft Science

Franny Choi

In this poetry collection, Choi explores her queer, Asian American identity as she faces the intersections of technology, artificial intelligence, gender, dating, love, violence, loneliness, and more.

PS3603.H653 A6 2019



The Year of Blue Water

Yanyi

Poems about the Chinese American experience, racism, mental illness, gender, and the trans experience are featured in this honest and multifaceted collection by Yanyi, who reminds us that "poems are a way to ask for what exists, to invite what wants to be visible."

PS3625.A688 A6 2019x

Nonfiction

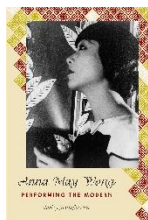


American Sutra: A Story of Faith and Freedom in the Second World War

Duncan Ryuken Williams

Drawing attention to the experiences of Buddhist Japanese Americans during World War II, Williams shows how their faith made them a target of additional US suspicion even as it supported them through the trials of foreign combat and domestic incarceration.

D769.8.A6 W55 2019

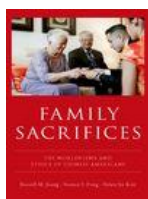


Anna May Wong: Performing the Modern

Shirley Jennifer Lim

This unorthodox, erudite biography of pioneering Chinese American actress Anna May Wong explores not only the events of her life but her role in constructing the image of the contemporary Chinese woman.

PN2287.W56 L56 2019

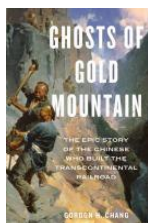


Family Sacrifices: The Worldviews and Ethics of Chinese Americans

Russell Jeung, Seanan Fong, & Helen Jin Kim

Sitting at the intersection of history, religious studies, and ethnography, this study of religious views and familial commitment offers a unique lens through which to view the Chinese American experience.

E184.C5 J48 2019

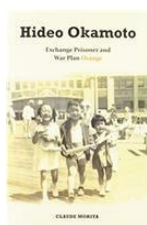


Ghosts of Gold Mountain: The Epic Story of the Chinese Who Built the Transcontinental Railroad

Gordon Chang

Drawing on documentary, archaeological, and photographic evidence, Chang reconstructs the lived experiences of the Chinese laborers who worked on the western part of the Transcontinental Railroad.

HD8039.R3152 C524 2019



Hideo Okamoto: Exchange Prisoner and War Plan Orange

Claude Morita

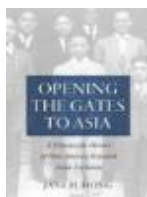
Hideo Okamoto, a US resident, was arrested as an 'enemy' in December 1941, detained in US concentration camps, and ultimately sent to Japan in a 'prisoner of war' exchange. Morita, himself a survivor of US internment, also includes reproductions of contemporary primary sources detailing US treatment of other Japanese Americans. D769.8.A6 M67 2019



Last Boat Out of Shanghai: The Epic Story of the Chinese Who Fled Mao's Revolution

Helen Zia

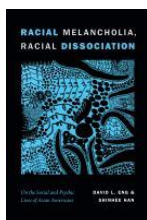
Drawing on extensive interviews, Zia details the experiences of four individuals displaced from their homes in Shanghai during the Communist conquest of China. In Zia's hands, their stories serve as both deeply personal narratives of dislocation and as transcendent depictions of the hardships faced by refugees in all times. DS777.542 .Z53 2019



Opening the Gates to Asia: A Transpacific History of How America Repealed Asian Exclusion

Jane Hong

Using sources from both Asia and the United States, Hong explores how and why the United States, which once restricted and even prohibited immigration from Asia, gradually reversed its stance and ultimately ended its exclusionary policies by the mid-twentieth century. E184.A75 H66 2019



Racial Melancholia, Racial Dissociation: On the Social and Psychic Lives of Asian Americans

David L. Eng & Shinhee Han

Co-written by a Chinese American humanities professor and a Korean American psychotherapist, this unique work advances a conceptual foundation for interpreting and understanding the social and psychological experiences of Asian Americans. E184.A75 E54 2019

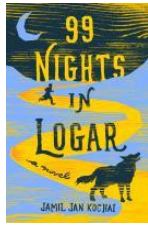


Unsettled Solidarities: Asian and Indigenous Cross-Representations in the Américas

Quynh Nhu Le

Using both literary and documentary sources, this heady piece of analysis examines the shared and contrasting aspects of Asian, Asian American, and Indigenous experiences under 'settler racial hegemonies' across the full swathe of the Americas. PN56.R16 L4 2019

Fiction

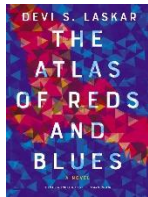


99 Nights in Logar

Jamil Jan Kochai

A funny and moving coming-of-age story about one boy's journey across contemporary Afghanistan to find and reunite with the family dog, Budabash, in an attempt to fit in and belong in a place that is meant to be home.

FICTION KOCHAI J



The Atlas of Reds and Blues

Devi S. Laskar

"Where are you from? No, where are you *really* from?" When a second-generation American woman finally confronts the racism that forces her into the role of a foreigner in her own home town, the response is a catastrophic explosion of violence.

FICTION LASKAR D



Beijing Payback

Daniel Nieh

A laidback college student is devastated by the death of his gentle, supportive father and shocked to learn that he may have been murdered due to his involvement with a crime syndicate in Beijing. This unusual thriller takes Victor back to China, where he seeks out the truth of his father's past—and revenge.

FICTION NIEH D

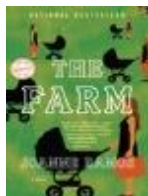


The Bride Test

Helen Hoang

Khai Diep, who believes his autism means he cannot feel love, is horrified when his mother brings Esme home from Vietnam to marry him--and she has no intention of marrying a man who doesn't love her, either. As they spend the summer reluctantly cohabitating, attending weddings and searching for Esme's long-lost father, they both learn a few things about real love.

FICTION HOANG H

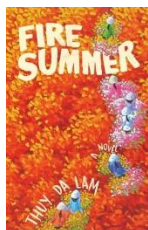


The Farm

Joanne Ramos

In an alarmingly plausible examination of the future of surrogacy under capitalism, a young Filipina mother agrees to become a "Host" at Hudson Valley—a very expensive baby farm.

FICTION RAMOS J



Fire Summer

Thuy Da Lam

Maia returns to her homeland under the guise of a research grant but with a mission to continue her father's fight for an independent Vietnam. Along the way, she encounters a cast of characters, both real and imagined, alive and dead, who guide her journey of self-discovery and help her understand the shape of a life that is lived in love.

FICTION LAM T



Home Remedies

Xuan Juliana Wang

Wang's collection of stories ranges from Beijing to Paris to New York, breaking the mold of the "immigrant narrative" to embrace the freedom-seeking nature of modern Chinese youth.

FICTION WANG X

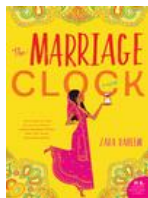


The Key to Happily Ever After

Tif Marcelo

Three Filipina sisters in Washington, DC take over the reins of their parents' struggling wedding planning agency. Between family drama, Bridezillas, and their own romances, it seems that happy endings are difficult to engineer!

FICTION MARCELO T

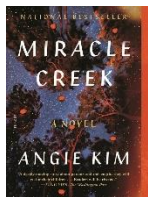


The Marriage Clock

Zara Raheem

26-year-old Leila's lifelong dreams of Bollywood romance inspire her to embark on a hilarious three-month campaign of dates at breakneck speed to find "the one" before her traditional South Asian parents arrange a match for her.

FICTION RAHEEM Z



Miracle Creek

Angie Kim

A fast paced murder mystery and courtroom drama that examines the life of an immigrant family in a small town known for its special hyperbaric treatment center. When something goes wrong and two people die, Kim challenges readers to come to their own conclusions about who is guilty.

FICTION KIM A



Murder Lo Mein / Wonton Terror

Vivien Chien

The third and fourth installments of the Noodle Shop Mystery series find amateur sleuth Lana Lee running the family Chinese restaurant and—together with dreamboat boyfriend Detective Trudeau—solving murders on the side. Cozy up for a delicious read!

MYSTERY CHIEN V



On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous

Ocean Vuong

Presented as a letter written by a man named Little Dog to his mother, who cannot read, *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* delves into the impact of the Vietnam War on their small family, while also describing the parts of Little Dog's life that his mother has never known.

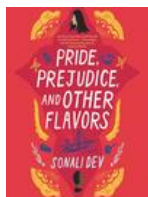
FICTION VUONG O



Playing House / Open House

Ruby Lang

In these breezy but touching romance novellas, the first two in the Uptown series, the New York City real estate market creates unexpected opportunities for love to bloom. Available as an eBook on Overdrive

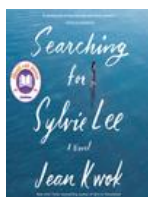


Pride, Prejudice, and Other Flavors

Sonali Dev

In this Desi retelling of Austen's *Pride & Prejudice*, a neurosurgeon from a politically ambitious immigrant family clashes with a talented dessert chef who wants to prove he's more than his pedigree.

FICTION DEV S



Searching for Sylvie Lee

Jean Kwok

Sylvie, the beautiful, brilliant, successful older daughter of the Lee family, flies to the Netherlands for one final visit with her dying grandmother--and then vanishes. As her sister Amy retraces her steps, she discovers painful secrets that reveal more about their family than she could have imagined.

FICTION KWOK J

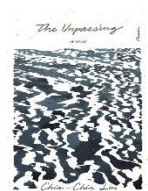


Severance

Ling Ma

A millennial living in Manhattan is one of the few survivors of an apocalyptic plague that leaves victims mindlessly repeating routine motions until their bodies fall apart.

FICTION MA L

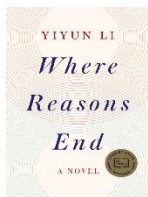


The Unpassing

Chia Chia Lin

A Taiwanese American family living outside Anchorage, Alaska, spirals into dysfunction after their four year old daughter dies of meningitis. Bleak but poetic.

FICTION LIN C



Where Reasons End

Yiyun Li

Written in the months after Li lost her son to suicide, *Where Reasons End* imagines a conversation between a mother and her now-absent child as she wrestles with understanding and grief.

FICTION LI Y



Your House Will Pay

Stephanie Cha

Grace Park and Shawn Matthews, whose families are connected by a decades-old terrible crime, must contend with the increased tensions in Los Angeles after an unarmed Black teenager is shot by the police.

FICTION CHA S